

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of Tarsset and Greystead Parish Council held at 730pm prompt in the Village hall, Lanehead, Tarsset, Northumberland, on Wednesday 18th October 2017

THOSE PRESENT J Morrison-Bell, (Chairman), S Walton, M Walton, G Armstrong, D McCracken, R Ward, ten members of the public

IN ATTENDANCE C Miller (Clerk),

1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

Chair announced Planning agenda item to be discussed first.

2. APOLOGIES

G Liddle, T Kathiravel

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

J Morrison-Bell, as a member of National Park Planning Committee, declared in interest in the four Planning Applications on the agenda.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 20th September 2017 were agreed as a true record.

5. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Planning application received

L Kathiravel spoke on behalf of some of the residents of Lanehead regarding their concerns about the new planning applications received for further development at Tarsset Tor. The residents would also be submitting their individual objections to the applications. **Planning Application NO 17NP0105: Proposed relocation of 2 bothies out of 5 bothies** - This would spread the visual impact of the site over a wider area of the hillside, thus impinging on landscape quality for residents and visitors. Despite wishing to decrease the number of residents in each bothy, the structures have not proportionally shrunk in size. To date, no significant effort to screen the site from the residents has been made, despite stipulations in original proposals. There is already a large area of light at this location to the parish and the existing bothies have substantial glazing which is not shaded at night with external lights on bunkhouses switched on all day and night. Moving the remaining bothies would increase the night time impact of the site and create more light pollution for those genuinely wishing to enjoy the dark skies. Past experience had taught the community the management style of Tarsset Tor to be hostile to the amenity of local residents, with already a significant level of ordinary noise disturbance and intrusion of privacy created by visitors to the site. By extending two of the bothies nearer to the community who live at the lower edge of the site, the impact will be even greater. Owners have stipulated they wish to reduce the number of guests from 8 to 4 per bothy, however originally permission was granted for 5 to 6 residents, with the bunkhouse intending to sleep 12, but being advertised online as sleeping 20 people, and a cap on the number of guests allowed on site should be considered.

17NP0104: Proposed two storey 12/15 bed bunkhouse: In the past the increase of nuisance to the amenity of the neighbours was deemed to be a negligible point as residential noise and light was limited, but the impact of tourist activity is a different matter and creates everyday nuisance for neighbours. The addition of a further large building spreads the visual impact even further up toward the horizon, completely dominating the traditional residential settlement around it, and will have a negative impact on the scenic value for tourists and residents. The site stands out clearly from the Kielder, Hesleyside and Donkleywood Road and as the roofline will be higher than the village hall, it will be very present in the landscape from the Greenhaugh Road. Although the owners appear to be developing in line with the desire for Dark Sky tourism, their observatory is not in keeping with the genre of purpose built sites that are now appearing within the park, and there would be a very obvious loss of privacy if this plan went ahead. There is a real issue of whether there is truly any need for more

capacity on the site, with a decline in visitor numbers during the winter months, at precisely the time the conditions for star gazing enthusiasts are at their best. There appears to be no extra provision being made for access by car to the new structures, which would entail guests parking their vehicles away from the site, potentially on the land belonging to Tasset Village Hall which is clearly signed for hall users only. Additional parking facilities and access roads on site would exacerbate the noise and light pollution on the site were they to be incorporated.

Objections had also been received from Tasset Village Hall to **Planning Application NO 17NP0104** regarding increased lighting, noise, parking, nuisance, screening and access.

Parish Councillors then discussed their views on the four individual applications.

- 17NP0103: proposed two storey extension to the side of existing farmhouse at Greystones, Lanehead – this appears to be a large extension, with the majority to the side of the property which would double the size of the existing house. Members of the public present had no objections to the application - M Walton proposed no objections, G Armstrong seconded, all in agreement.
- 17NP0104: Proposed two storey 12/15 bed bunkhouse at Tasset Tor, Tasset – R Ward proposed objecting to the application, D McCracken seconded this and stated the proposals are unnecessary and would increase the population of Lanehead by double, does not appear to adhere to the original planning permission granted; would lead to overdevelopment of the site and if National Parks did give permission they would need to carefully look at the resulting increase in vehicles parking, all in agreement.
- 17NP0105: Proposed relocation of 2 bothies out of 5 bothies approved under 10NP0041 at Tasset Tor, Tasset – there doesn't appear any advantage to moving the position of the bothies and M Walton proposed objecting on the grounds the structures would be too close to neighbours, D McCracken seconded. It was also agreed there would be an increase in light pollution and significant earthworks/drainage problems, all Councillors in agreement to making objection. Parishioner suggested National Parks be advised to carry out a site visit and this would be strongly recommended and included in objection.
- 17NP0106: Proposed extension to an existing shed/outbuilding at Greystones, Lanehead – Parish Council had no objection to this application.

Planning history on the site would be available at NNPA Planning Committee meetings.

7. HIGHWAY MATTERS

Speed signage evident, however comment had been received the number of signs is excessive.

8. FINANCIAL MATTERS

- a) The most recent financial accounts were accepted as a true record.
- b) The following invoices were authorised for payment: C Miller C Miller September Salary, £285.27 & October Expenses £32.30 (568); G Liddle, laminated notices for wheelie bins £6.00 (569)
- c) There was no future expenditure to authorise.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to discuss.

10. PLANNING

- a) Planning applications had been discussed as above
- b) No approval of planning applications had been received.
- c) There was no update on appeal regarding planning approval conditions stipulated for Burnbank Farm, five two storey detached dwellings .

11. DEFIBRILLATOR

Replacement pads had been received – item to be taken off agenda.

12. REINTRODUCTION OF LYNX TO KIELDER

Presumably, National Parks debate on the matter had still not taken place, J Morrison-Bell reported correspondence from various National Park representatives regarding discussing items more relevant to the Authority, as opposed to organising a seminar on mental health at work, which had taken place today. Forestry Commission had also not as yet confirmed their view on lynx proposals. Public meeting at Elsdon had been organised by National Sheep Organisation with a member of Deer Association also being present who had provided information lynx prey is 40% sheep, as opposed to information provided from the lynx trust and who had also stated they breed every three years, however this incorrect, and they do breed annually – young take three years to commence breeding – which would lead to drastically increased numbers over a short period of time. It was agreed consultation needs to be carried out by an independent body. J Morrison-Bell had communicated with Chairman of National Parks to state it is obvious local and National Park residents opinion as being overwhelming objection to the reintroduction and National Parks should take this into account. Parish Council's view is unchanged as being against the proposals, on grounds of public opinion within the parish.

13. MAINTENANCE OF ORCHARD

D McCracken apologised for inaction in improving the area, and would be prepared to put some hogs on the land for grazing purposes, and it was agreed this would be acceptable. Figures for maintenance of orchard to be included in future budget proposals to be discussed at November 2017 meeting.

14. REPORTS

Nothing to report.

15. MEETING DATES

It was agreed the Parish Council would meet bi-monthly, with the option of holding extra-ordinary meetings if necessary – J Morrison-Bell proposed new system to commence January 2018, S Walton seconded, all in agreement.

16. HEALTHCARE ISSUES

Guy Opperman's campaign had been successful in reinstating A&E services at Hexham hospital, however there was general concern regarding ever increasing cuts to healthcare and home support and it was agreed to contact MP Guy Opperman, copied to National Parks and Northumberland County Council, to voice concern.

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Bus shelter to be inspected and any remedial works to be ascertained.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Tarsset and Greystead Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 15TH November 2017 at 730pm.

The meeting closed at 840pm.